

Filed for intro on 06/07/2001

SENATE RESOLUTION 99  
By Person

A RESOLUTION To congratulate the Beg To Differ, Memphis University School a cappella male ensemble, for their successes in the Heritage Festival in New York City.

WHEREAS, The members of this legislative body are pleased to be able to recognize the accomplishments of those talented youth of this state who employ their gifts effectively in competition and bring honor to Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, The male a cappella ensemble, Beg To Differ, of Memphis University School, won first place for the Men's Choir Division, single highest scoring choral ensemble, and the Adjudicators' Choice Award for overall best program at the Heritage Festival in New York City; the contest, held before three nationally known adjudicators at the Riverside Church in Manhattan, featured 22 choirs from places as diverse as Nova Scotia, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Vancouver, and Washington State; and

WHEREAS, Beg to Differ (BTD) performed *Exultate Justi In Domino* by Viadana; *Galileo* by Sailors, featuring soloists Harrison Ford and Barton Adams; the spiritual *Sweet Little Jesus*

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*Boy*, featuring soloist Lee Owens, and *It's All Right* by Curtis Mayfield, featuring soloist Russell Bloodworth; and

WHEREAS, Memphis University School was also represented by the MUS Barbershop Quartet, composed of Harrison Ford, A.J. Walzer, Russell Bloodworth, and Sean Foley; the MUS Barbershop Quartet won second place for the Men's Choir division on the strength of its performances of *I'm Sittin' On Top of the World*, by Henderson, Lewis and Young; *Minnie the Moocher*, by Cab Calloway, and *Coney Island Baby*; and

WHEREAS, Beg To Differ was created in 1991 by music instructor John Hiltonsmith as a male vocal harmony group that performs a variety of a cappella styles of music, including classical, spiritual and religious genres; BTD is most noted for its "curbstone harmony" styles such as Barbershop and Philadelphia Doowop; and

WHEREAS, The ensemble consists of 16-20 singers and performs for many school-related and civic functions during each school year. Their unique mixture of classical and popular styles appeals to a broad spectrum of audiences, and 20 performances during a school year is not unusual; and

WHEREAS, BTD and its spin-off Barbershop Quartets have competed in Atlanta, Washington, D.C., New Orleans, Chicago and San Francisco; they have always gained ratings of "superior" and "excellent," and have always won their divisions; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, Beg To Differ won "Over-All Best Choir" at the New Orleans Riverfest; in 1999, they released their first CD and made a concert tour of France, which included performances at Chartres Cathedral and the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris; and

WHEREAS, The 2001 roster for BTD includes Peyton Harrell Broer, Harrison M. Ford, Lee Davis Owens, Morgan Douglas Rose, Barton Thomas Adams, William Holcombe Adams, Jesse Hylton Huseh, Benjamin Chinn Adams, Philip Carrington Blackett, Sean Kevin Foley, Kenneth Lee Hickman, John Keith Minervini, Eric Allix Rogers, Andrew Jeffrey Walzer, Phillip

Curtis Braun, Brett Hamilton Meeks, Dalton Troy Rushing, Robert Justin Willingham, Russell Edward Bloodworth III, Philip Andrew Janowicz, and director John Frederick Hiltonsmith; and

WHEREAS, These young men and their director have brought much pleasure to their audiences and much honor to their school, community and state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we congratulate Mr. John Hiltonsmith, director of Beg To Differ, and the young men of the ensemble upon their recent successes at the Heritage Festival in New York City this April, and extend our best wishes for every success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.